

# EPP Buyer Update

Volume 17, August-September 2005

## We Won!

### EPP Program Wins a National Purchasing Award



On August 30, 2005, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received the prestigious Gold-Level Cronin Club Innovation Award from the National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO). It is especially exciting that the award,

which recognizes outstanding procurement initiatives and promotes their adoption throughout the states, was given to Massachusetts for a new purchasing calculator developed by the EPP Program!

The new tool, called EnviroCalc, helps buyers estimate the environmental benefits and cost savings of recycled content and energy efficient products purchased based on supplier reports. Developing such estimates previously involved a multitude of separate calculations and took several months to accomplish. Thanks to EnviroCalc, now the same calculations can be performed in a matter of minutes!

One more benefit of the tool is that all the benefit estimates are interpreted using understandable equivalents. For example, information on the energy savings in kilowatt-hours will be compared to household energy usage, and the weight of recycled materials in tons will also be represented in the number of garbage trucks it would have taken to haul the material as waste.

Have we mentioned that the tool is free? At the moment, the tool and instructions for its use can be requested from by email at [Dmitriy.Nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us](mailto:Dmitriy.Nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us). This fall, it will be posted on the MA EPP website.

## Vendor Fair Update

### Have You Signed Up to Attend?

You don't want to miss this year's EPP Vendor Fair on November 2 at Worcester's DCU Center! In addition to over 140 vendors of green products and services, fabulous door prizes, free "green" product and service pilots and eleven exciting workshops in five tracks await you at the event!



- **Resource Conservation:** water conservation and renewable energy
- **Green Office Makeover:** ways to reduce the costs of paper recycling programs and using innovative technology to save money in the office
- **Building Green to Save Green:** green school and writing green leases
- **Forum for Fleet Managers and Schools:** new vehicles and fuels, and on ways to cut diesel emissions of school buses and other vehicles
- **Special Sessions** for federal purchasers and WasteWise members

**Registration, parking and meals are free for public employees!** Sign up to attend at <http://www.mass.gov/epp/events.htm>!

## FAQs: Lamp Crushers

**I have seen ads promoting on-site fluorescent lamp crushers feeding into metal drums. Is such equipment better/more economical than services of a lamp recycling company?**



**Definitely not.** In Massachusetts, used mercury containing fluorescent lamps must be managed either as a hazardous waste or a universal waste.

Crushing of lamps is regulated as a recycling activity under the Universal Waste rule, which provides for a number of crushing, separating and permitting requirements.

Most drum-top lamp crushers, which generate a single wastestream (i.e. mixture of glass, phosphor powder, and end-caps) do not satisfy those requirements, and therefore will be subject to very extensive licensing requirements. Those who operate drum-top crushers without proper permits or licensed will be subject to enforcement action.

Environmental health and safety studies of drum-style fluorescent lamp crushers by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and preliminary data from the U.S. EPA indicate that mercury vapor can leak out of drum crushers either through misuse or through faulty seals. This leakage can put the operator of the crusher at risk for mercury exposure, cause workplace contamination, as well as introduce more mercury into the environment.

*Continued on Page 2.*

## **“Try Before You Buy” Pilot Update**

### **The “Surface Safety” Challenge: Part 2 EPP Vendor Responds to Newton Public Schools’ Challenge**

In the previous issue we wrote about Newton Public School Department challenging Surface Safety, Inc (an EPP vendor whose Pilot Project they won at the [Environmental Vendor Fair](#)) to fix a set of stairs leading from a 100-car parking lot into the department’s headquarters. According to Carol Bock, Newton Public Schools’ Director of Operations and Environmental Affairs, most of the department staff and visitors use the stairs to get into the building. Several masons had attempted to repair the stairs, but each time the steps were patched they would crack again. The last option on the table was to demolish the existing steps and build new ones – and that’s when Surface Safety came in.

Over the course of two days (plus an additional day for the coating to cure), the stairs were restored using Surface Safety’s solvent free, no-VOC coatings. According to Bock, the renovated stairs “look beautiful; have a very nice surface – just like a completely new set of stairs.” Besides looking good, the stairs are now safer than before because of the non-slip coating that exceeds both the ADA and OSHA guidelines for slip resistance.

Surface Safety has gotten one more job in Newton. It’s a set of interior stairs at the Angier School, where Newton has “exhausted every other avenue of improving the surface including rubber and carpet.” It turned out that Surface Safety can add rubber granules or decorative color quartz granules, to make the surface not only environmentally friendly and affordable, but also very attractive.

Newton Public Schools are clearly happy they found Surface Safety and plan to continue hiring them to deal with problematic areas like, like worn concrete, slippery surfaces or to waterproof difficult to maintain areas. Surface Safety will be up for more challenges. They work with all types of surfaces including concrete, wood, metal or even tile. Call them with yours at 781-393-6900 / [www.surfacesafety.biz](http://www.surfacesafety.biz) or come to meet them at the Vendor Fair!

This year, the Vendor Fair will offer more Pilot Project opportunities to try various “green” products and services for free or at significant discounts. [Register to attend](#) the event to have an opportunity to win a pilot for your organization!

### **EPP Purchasing and Sustainability Awards Ceremony Moving to State House**

The EPP Purchasing and Sustainability Awards were traditionally presented at the Environmental Vendor Fair and Conference every fall. This year, the awards will be presented at a special event at the State House on October 5, 12:00-1:00. There is still time to apply for the awards and get recognized for your efforts. Public purchasing organizations (e.g. state agencies, cities, towns, counties etc.) and state contractors should visit the EPP Awards and Pilot Purchases page at <http://www.mass.gov/epp/awdspurc.htm> and download the application / nomination form! This year’s submission deadline is September 12.

### **Lamp Crushers (continued)**

Finally, on-site crushing of lamps may not save lamp generators any money. The cost of recycling a 4-ft lamp through the state contract ranges from \$0.26-0.27. The cost of disposing of the same lamp as hazardous waste (if the lamp crusher is used) would be about \$1.00. The latter figure does not take into account the labor feeding the lamps into the crusher, the purchase of replacement filters and the cost of recycling or disposing of the saturated filters.

So, as you can see, the bulb crushers may not be as good a deal as they appear.

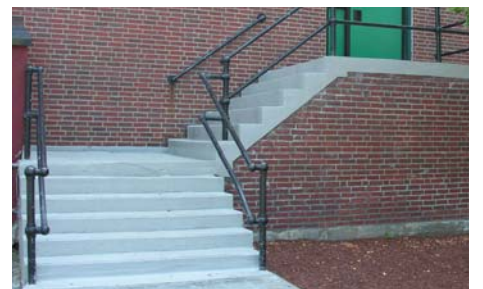
### **See for Yourself!**

Below are the “before” and “after” pictures of the stairs renovated by Surface Safety.

**Before: The staircase and a single step prior to treatment.**



**After: The final product.**



### **Subscription Information**

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